



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Baldwin-White Cloud Ranger  
Districts

650 N. Michigan Avenue  
Baldwin, MI 49304  
231-745-4631(voice)  
231-745-2345 (fax)  
231-745-8297 (TTY)

File Code: 1950

Date: September 23, 2010

Dear Friends of the Forest,

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project and is enclosed for your review. The attached table provides a summary of the three alternatives analyzed in the EA. This letter provides you notice of the opportunity to comment on the proposed activities.

Alternative 2 has been identified as the preferred alternative for implementation. A final determination of the selected alternative will be made after all public input is received and considered. Based on this input, a different alternative or a modified Alternative 2 may be selected.

Comments on the proposed action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the *Lake County Star* newspaper. However, when the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday, it is extended to the close of business of the next Federal working day. To ensure consideration in the decision-making process, comments must be postmarked or received prior to the close of the comment period at the office indicated on the letterhead. I will consider all timely comments in making my decision.

If you decide to comment on the proposed action, you must include the following information:

1. Your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
2. The title of the project you are submitting comments on; and
3. Specific facts or comments, along with supporting reasons that you believe I should consider in reaching a decision.

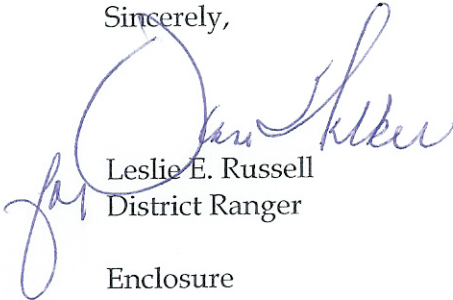
Comments received in response to this solicitation will become a matter of public record. To preserve one's appeal rights under 36 CFR 217.3, comments or an otherwise expressed interest in a particular proposed action must be made prior the close of the comment period. Copies of the resulting decision will be mailed to those people who have submitted comments prior to the close of the comment period and to those who request a copy. Comments that are received on this proposal are part of the public record and, therefore, are available for public inspection upon request.

Comments or project information requests should be submitted to Christopher Frederick, at Baldwin-White Cloud Ranger District, 650 N. Michigan Ave., Baldwin, Michigan, 49304; Telephone: 231-745-4631x3138; TTY/TDD: 231-745-8297 (hearing impaired); Fax: 231-745-2345; email: [comments-eastern-huron-manistee-baldwin-white-cloud@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-huron-manistee-baldwin-white-cloud@fs.fed.us).



For additional information visit our website at:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/PlanningandProjects>. From there, you may view documents electronically, make additional copies, and learn more about our planning activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie E. Russell", is written over the printed name and title.

Leslie E. Russell  
District Ranger

Enclosure

*The Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Environmental Assessment was designed and intended to be printed double-sided; however, an error was made in the final stages of printing and the resulting document is single-sided. For this, we apologize. In an effort to prevent further waste and to get the document to you in the timeliest possible manner for review we have enclosed the document as it was received.*



SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION – ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON				
RELEVANT ISSUES	MEASUREMENT	ALT. 1	ALT. 2	ALT. 3
Horse Use within the White River SPNM Area	Miles of Nonmotorized Trail	0	19.7	0
	Number of Designated Campsites	0	11	11
	Forest Closure Order	0	Yes	Yes
Manage the Transportation System -Provide Motorized Access -Limit Resource Damage	Miles of Open Road			
	Management Area 6.1	22.0	12.0	12.0
	Management Area 4.4	24.0	24.3	23.6
	Miles of Road Closure			
	Management Area 6.1	0	10	10
	Management Area 4.4	0	0.5	1.2
	Road Density (mi/mi <sup>2</sup> )			
	Management Area 6.1	1.8	1.0	1.0
	Management Area 4.4	2.1	2.1	2.0
PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIONS				
Provide Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat	MEASUREMENT			
Savanna Creation <sup>1</sup>	Acres	0	2,542	2,542
Opening Restoration	Acres	0	519	519
Non-Native Invasive Plants <sup>2</sup>	Acres	0	42	42
Actions Associated with the Protection of Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat				
Recreation	MEASUREMENT			
<i>Management Area 6.1 (Semiprimitive Nonmotorized)</i>				
Designated Camping	Campsites	0	11	11
Nonmotorized Trail	Miles	0	19.7	0
Designated Parking	Lots	0	2	1
Open Roads	Miles	22.0	12.0	12.0
<i>Management Area 4.4 (Rural)</i>				
Open Roads	Miles	24.0	24.3	23.6
Roads closed in suitable or occupied KBB habitat	Miles	0	0	0.7
Sustain Forest and Ecosystem Health and Minimize Wildfire Potential	MEASUREMENT			
Red Pine Thinning	Acres	0	761	761
Aspen/Oak Clearcut	Acres	0	23	23
Prescribed Burning (in addition to savanna creation acres)	Acres	0	1,050	1,050

<sup>1</sup> A combination of mechanical equipment, hand tools, prescribed burning, seeding/planting, and/or herbicide application would be used to create an interconnecting network of closed, partially closed, and open canopy areas that contain native grasses and KBB nectar plant species within the White River and Otto Metapopulation Areas. Not all National Forest System lands would receive the same treatments. For example, relatively open forests with remnant native grass and/or nectar plant populations would require fewer treatments to achieve the desired future condition, compared to dense forests.

<sup>2</sup> Treatment of up to 10% of savanna creation and existing opening acres may need herbicide treatment to reduce competition between native plants and non-native invasive species during project implementation. Project implementation will occur over the next 10 years. This acreage would be in addition to the 39 acres shown above.